

VZCZCXR08862
PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #1358 0740422
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 150422Z MAR 06
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9754
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 5134
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 8258
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1140
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0930
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7331
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 9311
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 001358

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OITP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS
TOKYO

-

LEAD STORIES: Wednesday morning's Nihon Keizai front-paged a report from Moscow concerning plans by Russia and other five former Soviet republics to form a joint peacekeeping force that operate abroad.

[¶](#) 1. "Ending the Vicious Circle of Japan-China Relations" An editorial in the business daily Nihon Keizai commented (3/15): "The Japanese and Chinese governments have exchanged harsh criticism since last month. The tension and distrust over PM Koizumi's visits to Yasukuni Shrine, natural gas development in the East China Sea, and Taiwan is so great that it could not possibly be resolved overnight. This makes it all the more important for each country to avoid making emotional statements and saying things that could invite misunderstanding in order to prevent the relationship from deteriorating further.... Speaking to the press Tuesday in Beijing, Chinese Premier Wen laid out China's policy toward Japan for the time being in a concise manner, saying that Japan-China relations would not improve while PM Koizumi is in office. Mr. Wen also said it was not the Japanese people but the Japanese prime minister who is to blame. His remarks indicated that while Beijing will not agree to a summit before PM Koizumi steps down in September, the Chinese will continue the strategic dialogue at the vice-foreign-minister level, keeping channels of communications intact. The remarks also indicated China's intention to expand private-sector exchanges and economic cooperation so as to prevent the strained relations from adversely affecting economic and trade ties, as well as constraining future remarks by Koizumi's successor. At the root of the friction between Japan and China that has existed since the beginning of this century is a contest for power in East Asia that goes beyond Yasukuni. This is

all the more reason for the governments of the two countries to maintain a moderate diplomatic stance."

SCHIEFFER